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iSi owners win regional SBA award

Wichita Business Journal - by Chris Moon

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Wichitans Gary and **Karma Mason** have won a regional 2011 Small Business Champion Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The Masons were honored for the growth of their company, **iSi Environmental Services**, and were given the Region 7 Entrepreneurial Success Award from the SBA. The environmental and safety consulting firm was founded 20 years ago and today employs more than 130 people, generating nearly \$10.5 million in annual revenue.

The company was the recipient of a SBA 504 program loan to help the firm expand its space.

The award was one of 10 regional awards announced Wednesday by the SBA. Region 7 consists of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa. The award winners now will compete for national titles.

Also winning an award Wednesday was the **Wichita State University** Small Business Development Center. The center was given the Region 7 Small Business Development Center Excellence & Innovation Award.

The Wichita SBDC serves 23 counties and has helped more small businesses than any other SBDC in Missouri and Kansas, according to the SBA.

The SBA says the center has created an agri-tourism class that has been copied nationwide. During the past eight years, the center's services generated an average of \$34.05 in new tax revenue for every \$1 investment in the program, the SBA says.